

Senate File 153 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 153

BY RAGAN and BOWMAN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the protection of student athletes from
2 concussions and other head injuries.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **280.13C Head injury policies.**

2 1. *a.* The board of directors of each public school district
3 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall
4 develop guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to
5 inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and the parents
6 and guardians of student athletes of the nature and risk of
7 concussions and other head injuries, including the danger
8 of continuing to participate in athletic activities after
9 suffering a concussion or head injury.

10 *b.* Annually, each school district and nonpublic school
11 shall provide to the parent or guardian of each student athlete
12 a concussion and head injury information sheet. The student
13 athlete and the student athlete's parent or guardian shall sign
14 and return the concussion and head injury information sheet to
15 the student athlete's school prior to the student athlete's
16 participation in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic
17 activity.

18 2. If a coach or other school official suspects a student
19 athlete may have sustained a concussion or other head injury
20 in an athletic practice or game, the student athlete shall be
21 immediately removed from participation.

22 3. A student athlete who has been removed from participation
23 shall not recommence such participation until the student
24 athlete has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider
25 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and
26 other head injuries and the student athlete has received
27 written clearance to return to participation from the health
28 care provider. The health care provider may be a volunteer.
29 A volunteer who authorizes a student athlete to return to
30 participation is not liable for civil damages resulting from
31 any act or omission in the rendering of such care, other than
32 acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or
33 wanton misconduct.

34 4. The board of directors of each public school district
35 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall

1 require any private entity which carries out a student athletic
2 activity in coordination with the school district or nonpublic
3 school to comply with the requirements of this section.

4 5. The board of directors of each public school district and
5 the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall adopt
6 rules and procedures necessary to carry out the requirements of
7 this section.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill directs the board of directors of each public
10 school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic
11 school to develop guidelines and other pertinent information
12 and forms to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and
13 parents and guardians of student athletes of the nature and
14 risk of concussions and other head injuries, including the
15 danger of continuing to participate in athletic activities
16 after a concussion or head injury. The bill requires school
17 districts and nonpublic schools to annually provide the
18 parent or guardian of a student athlete with a concussion
19 and head injury information sheet which must be signed and
20 returned before the student athlete may participate in an
21 extracurricular interscholastic athletic activity.

22 The bill provides that if a coach or other school official
23 suspects a student athlete may have sustained a concussion
24 or other head injury in an athletic practice or game, the
25 student athlete must be removed from participation. The bill
26 provides that a student athlete removed from participation
27 shall not recommence participation until the student athlete
28 has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained
29 in the evaluation and management of concussions and other
30 head injuries and received written clearance to return to
31 play. The bill specifies that the health care provider may
32 be a volunteer. The bill provides that such a volunteer
33 is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or
34 omission in the rendering of care, other than acts or omissions
35 constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

1 The bill directs the board of directors of each school
2 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school
3 to require any private entity which carries out a student
4 athletic activity in coordination with the school district or
5 nonpublic school to comply with the requirements of the bill.

6 The bill directs the board of directors of each school
7 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school
8 to adopt rules and procedures necessary to carry out the
9 requirements of the bill.